

DYNAMIC NETWORK LOAD BALANCING OVER HETEROGENEOUS LINK SPEED

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A method, apparatus, and computer program product for balancing
5 transmission unit traffic over network links, including disposing
transmission units into flows; grouping flows into first flow
lists, each corresponding to a selected network link; determining
a traffic metric representative of a traffic load on the selected
network link; responsive to the traffic metric, regrouping flows
10 into second flow lists corresponding to the selected network link,
the regrouping balancing the transmission unit traffic among the
network links; and transmitting the respective second flow list
over the respective selected network link. The invention also can
include a method for transmitting transmission units through a
network, including receiving a transmission unit from a
15 transmission unit source; classifying the transmission unit
according to a predetermined flow characteristic; selecting a
preselected network link over which the transmission unit is to be
transmitted; and transmitting the transmission unit over the
20 preselected network link.

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